

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 INT-05

CG-00 DOTE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 DLOS-09 /097 W

-----021920Z 095117 /43

R 021523Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9069

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY MADRID

UNCLAS DUBLIN 962

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS EI

SUBJ: FISHERIES: IRISH NAVY ARRESTS 10 DUTCH TRAWLERS

1. IRISH NAVAL AUTHORITIES APRIL 29 ARRESTED 10 DUTCH TRAWLER-MEN AND CHARGED THEM WITH ENTERING AND ILLEGALLY FISHING WITHIN IRELAND'S 50-MILE EXCLUSIVE FISHERY ZONE. THE PRECISE CHARGES ARE (1) ENTERING (INSIDE) THE EXCLUSIVE FISHERY LIMITS OF THE STATE, (2) FISHING WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE STATE, (3) HAVING FISH ON BOARD WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE STATE AND, (4) FAILING TO STORE FISHING GEAR IN THE APPROPRIATE PLACE FOR THE JOURNEY TO CORK. THE FLEET OF 10 TRAWLERS PLUS A HOSPITAL SHIP ARRIVED IN CORK HARBOR EARLY MORNING APRIL 30 AFTER THE ARREST OF 150-FT UNCLASSIFIED

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TRAWLER "MONICA" BY THE IRISH FISHERY PROTECTION VESSEL "DEIRDRE" 28 MILES OFF KINSALE HEAD.

2. THE FOUR SKIPPERS ARE DUE TO APPEAR IN COURT MAY 2 TO FACE CHARGES. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE OWNERS OF THE VESSELS FLEW INTO CORK TO BE PRESENT AT THE PROCEEDINGS. THE SKIPPERS ARE BEING REPRESENTED BY A CORK ATTORNEY WHO,

ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, IS ARGUING THAT THE TRAWLermen WERE NOT ACTING ILLEGALLY INASMUCH AS THE GOI DECLARATION OF A 50-MILE LIMIT VIOLATES EC RULES AND IS THEREFORE INVALID. THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT HAS PROTESTED AGAINST THE IRISH GOVERNMENT'S ACTION.

3. THERE IS SPECULATION IN THE IRISH NEWSPAPERS THAT THE DUTCH TRAWLER OWNERS DELIBERATELY PROVOKED AN INCIDENT IN ORDER TO TEST THE LEGALITY OF IRELAND'S EXCLUSIVE FISHERY ZONE. IT IS ALSO REPORTED IN THE PRESS THAT THE EEC COMMISSIONER FOR AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES HAS DECLARED THAT HE WILL URGE THE COMMISSION TO TAKE IRELAND TO THE EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE. WHILE SOME PRESS COMMENTARY EXPRESSES THE VIEW THAT THE IRISH ACTION JEOPARDIZES THE ALREADY PRECARIOUS NEGOTIATIONS AMONG MEMBER COUNTRIES FOR A COMMON FISHERIES POLICY, THE IRISH FISHERMENS' ORGANIZATION (IFO) APPEARS TO BE AS MILITANT AS EVER. THE IFO HAS COMMENDED THE NAVAL SERVICE FOR ITS ACTION BUT RESERVED ITS POSITION ON THE GOVERNMENT'S STAND. THE IFO HAS ALSO CALLED FOR PROSECUTION OF THE TRAWLermen TO THE FULL EXTENT OF THE LAW. FINALLY, THE IFO ASKED THE GOVERNMENT WHY IT HAD NOT ACTED SOONER TO EXCLUDE NON-IRISH FISHING VESSELS FROM THE EXCLUSIVE ZONE. RENDAHL

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